

VZCZCXRO4647
PP RUEHAO
DE RUEHCV #0039 0061603
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 061603Z JAN 06
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2694
INFO RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY 5787
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 5051
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY 1492
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY 9693
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY 1571
RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY 0304
RUEHLI/AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY 1229
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 0349
RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY 2961
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 0253
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY 0490
RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY 0722
RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY 3489
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 0496
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY 0943
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY 3194
RUEHAO/AMCONSUL CURACAO PRIORITY 0492
RUEHMI/USOFFICE FRC FT LAUDERDALE PRIORITY 2734
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUMIAAA/HQ USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL PRIORITY
RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA PRIORITY 0368

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 000039

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [KCRM](#) [VE](#)

SUBJECT: VENEZUELA BLAMES USG FOR DELAYED ANTI-DRUG
AGREEMENT

Classified By: POLITICAL COUNSELOR ROBERT R. DOWNES FOR 1.4 (D)

¶1. (C) Venezuelan Interior Minister Jesse Chacon blamed the USG January 4 for delays in normalizing the U.S.-Venezuelan counternarcotics relationship. Chacon complained that the accord had been hard to settle because "the DEA keeps modifying its text." (Note: the USG and GOV already have a bilateral counterdrug memorandum of understanding, signed in ¶1978. Post provided the GOV for review in mid-December implementation guidelines based on the 1978 memorandum.) The GOV also informed the Embassy in a December 19 diplomatic note that it was denying TDY visas to two DEA chemists because the negotiations over the new agreement had not been settled. Embassy responded by returning without action the visa requests of two Finance Ministry officials planning to attend IDB meetings in Washington.

¶2. (SBU) GOV antidrug agency CONACUID chief Luis Correa called NAS director after Chacon's pronouncement to apologize and to assure him the agreement would be signed after some fine-tuning by the GOV. DEA reports that its working-level relationship with the GOV has been business-as-usual over the past several weeks.

¶3. (C) Comment: The GOV has not lately repeated its December claim that an alleged DEA agent in Colombia attended a meeting of conspirators plotting against Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez. The visa dispute also appears settled for the time being. Chacon's statement, then, may be just another case of gratuitous USG bashing. Chacon knows the facts of the matter will be lost on the Venezuelan public. For his part, Correa is seeking to minimize working-level problems with the USG. Yet, the assuring words of Correa, who has lied to U.S. officials, should not necessarily be

taken to indicate a smooth process ahead.

WHITAKER